NEW YORK, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1902, -Copyright, 1902, by The Sun Printing and Publishing Associatio

LAURA BIGGAR ACQUITTED,

BUT DR. HENDRICK AND JUSTICE STANTON ARE GUILTY.

Jury Acquits Her of Conspiracy to Get the Fortune of Old Man Bennett by Means of an Alleged Marriage and Birth, but Convicts the Men Indicted With Her.

FREEHOLD, N. J., Dec. 24.-Laura Biggar, the actress, is innocent and Dr. Charles C. Hendrick and Justice of the Peace Samuel Stanton, who with her were charged with conspiracy, are guilty, according to the remarkable verdict of the jury this afternoon after almost twenty-four hours of

sleepless deliberation.
After the first two or three minutes of hysterics on the part of the women interested in the case had passed public interest in Miss Biggar and her less fortunate associates was transferred to the twelve jurors. They had been neglected during the trial, but after the verdict they were the whole show and all Freehold wanted to see them and hear them speak. Some persons were so curious as to ask one juror to explain how they had done it and yelled after them in the street.

Say, Aaron, hold on there," was one hail. Who had that baby, anyhow? How'd you get a marriage conspiracy without a

Most of the jurors live in townships out-side of Freehold and friends and acquaintances here offered to see that they got on the right trains and to tell the conductors to put them off at the right stations.

To show what a remarkable verdict this really is the main facts of the case should be recalled. Laura Biggar, who lived with the late Henry M. Bennett for the four or five years preceding his death last April, was a beneficiary under his will to the extent of 80 per cent. of the entire estate. She was to receive that 60 per cent. at the end of five years. In the meantime she was to receive \$1,800 a year from the estate. She not only made no objection to the will at the outset but, over the signature "Laura Biggar," filed a petition for the probate of the will. Subsequently she affirmed, at a session of the Orphans' Court, that she was not Laura Biggar, but Laura Bennett, the widow of Henry M. Bennett, and the mother of a posthumous child by him. Under the law the child born after the death of its father would inherit, regardless of any will. The actress furher declared that her posthumous child died eleven days after birth and that she as the child's heir should inherit the whole of the Bennett estate.

The three main points in Miss Biggar's story were corroborated by Samuel Stan-Hoboken Justice of the Peace, and Dr. Charles C. Hendrick, proprietor of a mnitarium in Bayonne. Stanton swore that he married Laura Biggar and Henry nett on Jan. 2, 1898. Dr. Hendrick swore that the child was born and died at his enitarium. Laura Biggar also swore to the marriage and to the birth and death of

Stanton also swore that a certificate of the alleged marriage was the original cer-tificate filled out by him and given to the woman on the night of the ceremony in 1888. It was afterward proved that blank on which the certificate was made out was not printed until 1900. The whole ase hung on that fact when the State of New Jersey caused the arrest of Laura and birth to defraud the other Bennett heirs for the benefit of the Biggar woman. Here are the jurors who found the ver-

James King of Marlboro, foreman, Edward H. Hoberts, Atlantic Highles Asron Burtis, Upper Freehold. Edwin Bolles, Asbury Park. Charles F. Morris, Long Branch. George Coe, Middletown. Charles H. Coombs, Manalapan. Fritz Weber, Matawan. Eugene Johnson, Holmdale. James J. Barkalow, Freehold. Emerson Baird. Bairdtown. Elsworth Brown, Manalapan. All of the jurges were asked.

All of the jurors were asked by what process of reasoning they had arrived at their verdict, but none would explain. Most of them refused to say anything and James King of Marlboro. If Foreman, James King of Marlboro. If Foreman King could solve the puzzle he wouldn't.
Juror Brown of Manalapan made the longest speech. He said:

longest speech. He said:

"I know I ain't very well educated, but I know what's right and what's wrong. We argued all night by spells. Soon as we got excited and overheated we'd just t up for a while and sit quiet till everywas calm. Then we'd argue it all over again, and we kept on that way till we got a verdict. The first vote was x to convict all three and ix to acquit all three. It was that way all night till we heard from the Judge. Then it was three of us to acquit all for a while and nine to convict the men and let the woman go. Then, by golly, we finally got our verdict with all hands for the lady and against the men." Another juror's statement was: "Well,

we thought that verdict would be more popular than anything else we could do. Juror Robinson was asked if sympathy for the lucky one of the three because she nan had anything to do with the

verdict.
"Oh, no," he replied, "our oaths wouldn't let us have any sympathy for any one."
"Did you find Stanton guilty?" Robinson was asked, "because he swore to the mar-

"Of course not," said Robinson, "for that would make the woman guilty too."
Stanton's sole connection with the case was with reference to the alleged marr was with reference to the alleged marriage.

One juror was asked what Hendrick was guilty of. He didn't seem to know.

A hint of the mental capacity of the turors was given this morning when they illed into court to ask Judge Hetsley for further instructions. They wanted to know if they could convict two of the prisoners and acquit the third. The Judge told them very explicitly in his charge yesterday that they could do that very thing. Judge Heisley repeated his instructions on that point and the jury retired for another two hours.

n they came in for advice from the Court everybody naturally took it for granted that they were getting ready to granted that they were getting ready to acquit one of the men, and the general opinion was that Stanton was to be the lucky man. Dr. Hendrick's wife thought so, too, for she exclaimed, "I knew it, my God! I knew it!" and then fainted once more in court. Miss Biggar, who has plenty of common sense, also took it for granted that one of the men was to escape and that the jury would come in later and declare her guilty. She was as astonished as everycody else when the twelve men made their

Miss Biggar and Mrs. Hendrick were

Seidom if ever in any one year of the history of the world have so many important events of universal interest taken place. America, England Germany laterest taken place. America, England Germany and France have each participated. The President of the United States welcomed and entertained R. R. H. Prince Henry of Prussia at the White House, Edward the Vil. was crowned king of England and Emperor for India, the German Emperor had his American built Yacht "Meteor christened, France and the unveiling of the Rockambeau Statue, and at all functions attending these celebrations Most & Chandon Champague was used exclusively. This indeed is an unparableted record, which is proof positive of the superierity and popularity of the renowned brand of Votes & Chandon White Scal.—Ads

William Comments of the sand

having dinner in the jail with Hendrick and Stanton when they were summoned it 1:30 o'clock this afternoon to hear th Foreman King announced it to a crowded

court room. Clerk Cashion thought first that he must have misunderstood, and asked King to repeat. The foreman again said that they found Miss Biggar not guilty and Stanton and Hendrick guilty. The roll was called and his eleven asso-

cia es repeated the vardict.

There are some women here who believe
in Laura Biggar. They have sent her flowers and letters in which they said they were praying for her acquittal. When the verdict was rendered Mrs. Hendrick shrieked and fell to the floor in a swoon. Her husband kissed her and then hurried back to jail with Stanton Neither of them stopped to congratulate Miss Biggar, But Mrs. Hendrick con-gratulate has

gratulated her.

After recovering from her swoon Mrs.
Hendrick put her arm about the freed
woman and said:

"Oh, Mrs. Bennett! I'm so glad for you.
But my children! My God! my children!
I don't cure for myself."

Then Mrs. Hendrick fainted again and
fell before available goalsh her

Then Mrs Hendrick fainted again and fell before anybody could catch her. She recovered in a few moments and then returned to the jail with Miss Figgar, where the two women resumed their in-terrupted meal with the convicted men. Sentence will not be pronounced until Jan 2. In the meantime the lawyers for the defence will file a writ of error, which will act as a stay pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. The extreme penalty is \$1.000 fine or three years' imprisonment, or

both Miss Biggar will spead Christmas at

Freehold
"I have nowhere else to go," she said tonight. "I have no plans for the future.
My persecutors, who were responsible for his charge of conspiracy, have so far succeeded in keeping every cent that belongs

ceeded in keeping every cent that belongs to me."

Miss Biggar may return to the stage.
Hendrick said:
"This verdict, of course, won't stand, and it won't satisfy anybody. The persons responsible for the case against us don't care anything about me or Stanton. They don't care whether we are in jail or out. They wanted to put Mrs. Bennett out of the way so that they could get her money. They've been fooled at their own game. She will get her money and we'll zet out of here as soon as the Supreme Court gets a chance at this ridiculous get out of here as soon as the Court gets a chance at this ridiculous

VANDERBILT DISCRIMINATED. W. K., Jr., Fitted His Gifts to the Needs of

Those Who Received Them. LITTLE NECK, Dec. 24.- The children of the Little Neck public school this afternoon received the gifts provided for them by William K. Vanderbilt, Jr. The exercises were held in the assembly room of the school and were attended by a large number of mothers and friends of the children. Miss Anna Bett, principal of the school, was in charge.

In one corner of the assembly room was a big Christmas tree which reached to the ceiling, and which had been cut in the woods at Deepdale, Mr. Vanderbilt's estate at Success Lake.

Mr. Vanderbilt did not content himself with making presents of candy, ice cream and cake. He had personally learned the conditions of the pupils. The poor liftle fellows who came from

the clammers' homes on the shore received warm suits of clothes, rubber hoots, heavy woollen sweaters, caps and mittens. The girls from the same homes received warm iresses, caps and bonnets. The sons of the well-to-do farmers re-

ceived air guns, skates, sleds and hockey out fits. When the entertainment was over many

onspiring to prove a false marriage ment of Mr. Vanderbilt in providing warm with lothing for so many of the children who have to walk far to the schoolhouse in all kinds of weather.

TO ROB HARRISON'S GRAVE? Indianapolis Police Get a Letter Telling of an Alleged Plot.

INDIANAPOLIS. Dec. 24.-In a letter received to-day by the Police Superintendent a story of a plot to rob the grave of former President Benjamin Harrison was given by a man named Wallace Simms, and the police are now looking for the writer and are to investigate the matter. The letter says that Rufus Cantrel, who has long led a desperate gang of graverobbers and who is now under indictment for stealing a large number of bodies, was to rob the grave of the ex-President and convey the body to the office of a local physician.

A rumor of theft was then to be put in circulation, and after it was confirmed by the opening of the grave it was supposed that a reward would be offered by the family for the body. Meantime it was to be placed in a physician's office, and after the reward was offered was to be taken to the country and found by Cantrel, who would then claim the reward.

The letter refers to several circumstances regarding the funeral of Mr. Harrison that shows that he is fully acquainted with the site of the grave and the steps attending the burial, and he says that he thwarter the plotters by going to the grave himself and placing the "ghoul mark" upon it and when Cantrel afterward visited the grave and found the mark he did not dare open the grave.

MIDNIGHT RUBGLAR HUNT. lendertein Reserves Searching the Son

rento at 1:30 This Morning. The occupants of the Sorrento apartment house at 136 Madison avenue were awakened at 1 o'clock this morning by a burglar hunt in which all the Tenderloin detectives and reserves were engaged.

A Mr. Green, the secretary of a doctor those office is in the house, was awakened at 12:30 o'clock, he says, by a burglar getting in at his window. Green got up and the burglar left the window and started ack, un or down, on the fire escape.

The house was soon in an uproar. Ar elevator boy thought he saw the burglar on the fire escape at the rixth floor.

Joe Weber, the actor, came in while the search was on. He called the detectives to search his rooms. The police were going through the apartment and through other houses on the block at 1:30 o'clock this

Blaze on a Steamship Pier.

Three alarms of fire were turned in for the Ocean Steamship Company's pier 35 North River, shortly before 10 o'clock last night. The fire occurred on the second door front, where the offices are located. The fireboat New Yorker which responded on the first alarm turned four streams on the pier and had the fire out in less than a alf hour. Acting Chief Furray placed the damage at about \$5

Investors Read The Wall Street Journal. Accuracy and completeness the watchwords its publishers, Dow. Jones & Co.-Adv.

JURY ACQUITTED MOYNIHAN.

JEROME WON'T TRY TENDERLOIN CASES BEFORE A JURY.

His Office Hasn't Much Hope of Criminal Convictions of Captains on the "Proteetion" Count-Take 'Em to Headquarters and Fire 'Em Out Is Easier.

Ex-Police Captain Daniel C. Moynihan was equitted at 5:25 o'clock vesterday afternoon y a jury in the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court of the charge of bribery in taking \$25 protection money for the isorderly house in East 110th street run y Antonio Laporti and Frank Pagliano. When Moynihan was arrested a month ago he said he would beat the case, and ne did.

The jury was out about three hour On the first bailot it divided, 6 to 6. and then it went out and had lunch and returned. After two hours had passed the large crowd of policemen and others interested in Moynihan's case were sure of disagreement.

When the foreman of the jury announced o Justice Davy that the jury had acquitted Moynihan the ex-captain put his head down on his hands and began to weep, Magistrate Pool, who is a member of the Loyal Legion, to which Moynihan also belongs, threw his arms about Moynihan and Moyniban returned the embrace. They patted each other's backs for some time. By the time the Magistrate got through embracing the ex-police captain court room full of Moynihan's friends were ready to wish him a Merry Christmas. Moynihan, when asked what he had to say about the verdict, replied:

"I've got nothing to say. I'm going to eat my Christmas dinner at home, as I expected to. They've got nothing aginst me; if they hov I want thim to bring it up. Whin the jury was out more than two hours I became a bit doubtful, but I got me nerve agin, and now I'm going home.

It was rumored that there were other charges against Movnihan that would be pressed, but Assistant District Attorney Morgan said he knew of none. "It's all over," he said

The case grew indirectly out of the arrest of Policeman Beadle of the West Thirtyeventh street station for extorting money from a woman who kept a free-and-easy flat. The woman made charges against Beadle, who is now in Sing Sing, and against lapt. Haughey's wardman, Monroe Roseneld. Rosenfeld got to making confessions and the Moynihan case was built out of his revelations, and subpœnas were sent to Laporti, Pagliano and Frank Raimondo. a street cleaning employee and the selfconfessed collector for Movnihan. They were unwilling witnesses and were turned into a room together to decide whether or not they would tell all they knew to the District Attorney. They decided to tell.

While they were making their decision what they said in Italian was overheard by dimunitive Jimmy Brandi, an Italian clerk in the District Attorney's office, who hid in a closet. His report to Mr. Schurnan was so satisfactory that it was decided o prosecute Movnihan.

Moynihan produced one alibi witness called a friend named Hart, who swore hat Sergt. Reiffert, a witness for the prose cution, had spoken of the case as a police job to "do" Moynihan and disposed of some apparently damaging testimony, with ear-Biggar, Hendrick and Stanton on the charge of the older persons praised the good judg- nest denials, seasoned by flashes of Irish

> id after the acquittal that it was eviden that there was little chance of convictions of policemen in the trials at the criminal bar upon any charge concerning the passbar upon any charge concerning the passing of money or concerning neglect of duty in not closing up disorderly houses.
>
> It is not yet a year since the Court of Appeals upheld the legality of Assistant District Attorney Gans's so-cailed omnibus indictment. Mr. Jerome said that that decision delivered the police force into his hands. Since then Capt. Herlihy has been tried twice for neglect of duty at Eldridge street and Policeman Kane duty at Eldridge street and Policeman Kane has been tried once for helping a negress rob a sailor in a saloon in Capt. Chapman's precinct, and the juries have disagreed; and Moynihan has been acquitted. Mr. Jerome has already decided not to try any of the cases of the Tenderloin police indicted a year ago for neglect of duty in regard to Laura Maurat's disorderly house in West Thirty-third street except at Police Headquarters on charges.

of the statutory assistants while the jury was out, "would be a final and knockout blow to any remaining hep- of prosecuting captains in the criminal courts for anything less than capital crimes." FUNERAL RIOT CHARGES FAIL

Partridge Acquire Inspector Cross and Capts. Herliny and Albertson. Police Commissioner Partridge gave out is decision yesterday afternoon in the cases

of Inspector Adam A. Cross, Capt. John D. Herlihy and Capt. Charles A. Albertson. charged with neglect of duty on the occasion of the disturbances on the East Side last summer during the funeral of Rabbi Joseph. All were acquitted of the charge. The Commissioner's disposal of each of

he charges read as follows: *Having maturely considered the evidence iduced, I find that it does not sustain the harges and that the defendant is not guilty.

'omplaint is dismissed." The charges against Cross, Herlihy and Albertson were preferred at the request of Mayor Low, who appointed a committee to investigate the Rabbi Joseph riot. Two lays after the committee reported the Mayor wrote to Commissioner Partridge hat he had instructed the Corporation counsel to prepare charges against the inprepare charges against the two captains

ALDERMAN'S JAW BROKEN.

Car Hits the Wagon Metzger Was In -Thrown Against a Post.

Alderman Charles Metzger of 353 West Forty-second street was thrown from a agon, ii. a collision with a trolley car at Forty-first street and Sixth avenue yesterday afternoon. His jawbone was broken.

Mr. Metzger had been at an auction sale by Floyd, Grant & Co. of which he is a member and was going home in the auctioneer's wagon to see that the furniture which he had bought was safely delivered. As the wagon was crossing Sixth avenue at Fortyfirst street it was run down by a north-

The Alderman was thrown against an elevated railroad pillar and was picked up unconscious. William Eckert, the driver, was also knocked off and got several ad bruises and cuts.

Mr. Metzger was taken into a drug store and revived and after being atter an ambulance surgeon was taken home. Eckert was cared for at the Flower Hos-pital and he was then taken home.

MRS. ROOSEVELT'S PRESENT. POLICE RAID A "WHIST CLUB" The Ladies of the Cabinet Will Give Her Gold Purse Set With Diamonds

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.-Mrs. Roosevelt's most prized gift to-morrow morning will be that presented by the women of the Cabinet. The greatest possible secrecy has been observed in guarding the nature of the gift, which will be a perfect surprise to her. It is a gold purse of superh workmanship, set with diamonds and sapphires It is inscribed on the outside "Mrs. Theodore Roosevelt," and on the inside "From the Ladies of the Cabinet, Dec. 25, 1902."

The purse happens to be just the thing bove all others which Mrs. Roosevelt wanted the most. Mrs. Hay selected it during one of her recent visits to New ork and had a beautiful white box espocially made for it.

Just what Mrs. Roosevelt has selected or the women of the Cabinet will not be known until to-morrow, but for each she has chosen a most beautiful souvenir of her reign as "The First Lady of the Land."

MRS. M'KINLEY'S CHRISTMAS. She Will Take Dinner Away From Home

-First Time Since She Became a Widow. CANTON, Ohio, Dec. 24 .- For several days umerous packages have been received by Mrs. McKinley, containing Christmas remembrances. She likewise has sent numerous tokens to friends. Many of her juvenile favorites in Chicago, Cleveland, Washington, Columbus and New York will get slippers made by her own hands.

To-morrow Mrs. McKinley will take Christmas dinner with her sister, Mrs. M. C. Barber, who lives at the old Saxton home. The gathering will be of only the two families. This will be the first holiday dinner that Mrs. McKinley has taken away from home since her husband's death, having refused all previous invitations of relatives and friends.

Aside from the gathering at the Barber home Mrs. McKinley will make her accustomed daily visit to the vuult where rest the remains of her husband. She will be allowed to enter the vault and remain about fifteen minutes. This daily visit to the tomb has become so much a part of her life that it cannot be omitted, no matter how foul the weather.

THE PRESIDENT'S HOLIDAYS. He Will Transact Only the Most Important

Publie Business. WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—President Roose velt will spend the holiday season with his family, transacting only the most important public business and receiving only a few cailers in the week between Christmas and New Year's. The President does not expect to go to his office at all to-morrow. In the morning he and the members of his family, all of whom are now in Washingon, will exchange Christmas gifts in the library, but there will be no Christmas tree at the White House. Later they will go to the residence of Capt. and Mrs. Cowles in N street for luncheon. In the afternoon he President and Mrs. Roosevelt will go

driving or riding. Dinner will be served in the state dining room of the White House, Christmas evening, and a number of guests will be enter-

tained. As many of the White House employees as can be spared from their duties will be allowed to spend Christmas Day in their homes. Each of them received a gift of a turkey from the President to-day.

The President, Mrs. Roosevelt and Gen. Leonard Wood went for a horseback ride this morning, and the President received only a few callers during the day. Late omy a few callers during the day. Late in the afternoon he received the delegates to the college fraternity of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, who are holding their convention in Washington. Shortly after 10:30 the President and Mrs. Roosevelt, accompanied by Gen. Wood, left the White House in a carriage and were driven to Georgetown, where horses awaited them. They rode into the country northwest of Washington and did not return to the White House until 2:30 o'clock. until 2:30 o'clock.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT MISSED.

But He Sent a Check to Cove School That Helped to Make Up for His Absence. OYSTER BAY, L. I., Dec. 24 .- For the second time in fifteen years Theodore Roosevelt did not to-day act as Kriss Kringle at the Cove school where the children of he President attended until transported to Washington by their father's elevation to the Presidency. Last year the President was so newly come to his high office that he could not spare the time to come here and officiate, and this year events are pressing him too hard to admit of his com-

Instead, however, he sent a little slip of paper some days and the principal, Miss Samh Provost, to deal more liberally with her charges than they of paper some days ago, which enabled had ever been before. The sleds and games and dolls were more costly than ever before and the candies more elaborate and in greater quantities. There were two trees, instead of one, and Miss Provost read a letter from President Roosevelt, telling the boys and girls how sorry he was that he could not be with them.

A CHRISTMAS DINNER LOOSE. Shoat Causes Amusement and Some Trep

idation in a Bridge Car. Three men, one carrying a small pig under his coat, caused a lot of amusement for the passengers on a Bridge car going over to Brooklyn about 7 o'clock last night When the car was near the Brooklyn side spector and directing the Commissioner to the pig became unmanageable, jumped out of the man's hands and got into a corner of the car and began to squeal. One woman near the door thought it was a case of "mad dog" and stood up on the seat, calling to the conductor to open the door and let the animal run out. When the train reached the Brooklyn side the pig calmed down a little, and its owner, o said shoat was better than turkey for

MUST BE PROSPERITY.

Never Before Were So Many Bundles of Good Things Carried Home. Never before were there so many Christ

the Government. mas eve bundles carried home as last night. according to policemen who keep the rushhour wedges moving straight. The crowd that went across the Brooklyn Bridge was one long, continuous procession of bundle carriers. The man or woman or child without bulging pockets or at least one package in hand was the exception.

"It can't mean anything but prosperity," said the roundsmen at the B idge. "But, oh, my! I'm tired." and there are seven heirs.

Not at all Surprising millions of best Americans have used Sozoborr haif a century. It's the Standard. - Ads.

IT'S REALLY CHAPPIE MORAN'S POKER PARTY, THEY SAY.

More Than That, Adds Schmittberger, the Game Was Crooked-Minutes of the Club Found and Twenty-two Men Arrested-A Warning for Moran.

Capt. Schmittberger of the West Fortyeventh street station and five men raided an alleged gambling house late last night in back of the Long Acre cigar store, at 1503 Broadway. Twenty-two prisoners Capt. Schmittberger says that "Chappie"

Moran and Larry Somerfield, the confidence men, have been interested in the gambling place and have introduced to it men who are anxious to learn the gentle game of poker. Capt. Schmittberger unhesitatingly said that the game played there was not as straight as most games. The place was known as the St. James-

Long Acre Whist Club, Capt. Schmittberger succeeded in getting the evidence against it through a new policeman, one Robert Ullner, who was a lawyer before he became a bluecoat. Uliner got into the place last night, and Schmittberger and his men had to wait on the outside until some one came out. Then they broke in. They got several packs of cards and a number of chips. Poker and stuss were he games principally played at the "club."

The police also found the "minutes" of wo meetings of the "club." One set forth: A member whose name for common decency's sake is omitted from this record has been expelled for being reputed a common gambler." A record of another meeting stated that

another member had been expelled because he had declared that "a moral form of gambling was the proper thing for a club." Soon after the raid was made Moran and Somerfield, who evidently had been elephoned for, showed up outside the club. Capt. Schmittberger warned them

o keep out of his precinct. The captain said that one of the priso who gave the name of Louis Myers, was the proprietor of the place, and that Somerfield and Moran were associated with him. Myers's real name, according to Schmittberger, is Thurman.

RUSSIAN COURTESY TO MILES. Warship Put at His Disposal for the Trip From Port Arthur to Taku.

Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. PERIN, Dec. 24 .- Gen. Miles has sailed from Port Arthur on a Russian battleship which Admiral Alexieff tendered to him to convey him to Taku. He is expected to

arrive here to-morrow. The Board of Foreign Affairs has adopted an apologetic attitude concerning the action of the Throne in confiscating the telegraphs and steamship interests. The board is desirous of minimizing the highhandedness of the proceeding and of averting foreign inquiry and criticism. It pretends that the Government is unable to pay for even the private telegraph shares, which are estimated to be worth 3,000,000 taols. High Chinese say that it is not necessary to raise the entire amount by taxation, and that the Throne could a large proportion of the sum by grant-

ing rank and titles Rumors reach here of rebellious plans that are said to be in preparation by Prince ellions have started throughout the Yangtse Valley according to the reports that have been received here.

THE POPE RECOVERS. Fit of Weakness Passes Away and He Celebrates Christmas Mass. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. ROME, Dec. 24 .- The Pope has entirely

recovered from the effects of the emotion induced by his strong speech to the Carlinals yesterday, and to-day he is enjoyng his usual good health. It was announced this evening that he

would celebrate mass in his private chapel at 10:30 o'clock to-night.

\$250,000 ASTOR MEMORIAL. New Department for the London Hospital

for Sick Children. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. LONDON, Dec. 24. - William Waldorf Astor has given £50,6.0 to the Hospital for Sick Children in Great Ormong street to build a new out-patient department. The building will be dedicated to the

Gwendoline, who died recently. VANDERBILT GETTING WELL. Out of Danger Is the Good Christmas News

nemory of Mr. Astor's young daughter

His Friends Will Hear. Dr. Austin Flint, Jr., who has been staying at the Vanderbilt house since the patient took a turn for the worse, went home shortly before 11 o'clock last night. He eemed in high spirits over Mr. Vander-

bilt's condition, and said: "Mr. Vanderbilt has turned the corner in his illness and is going to get well. His temperature has again fallen and is now at a point which we consider safe. We believe he will recover rapidly. So far we could not ask that he do better. He has shown wonderful vitality and has made a game fight. I have just left him sleeping comfortably.

had made their evening call the following bulletin was issued at 7 o'clock: Mr. Vanderbilt has passed a very good day. His temperature was lower during the morn-ing, and though it is a little higher this -ven-ing his general condition is very satisfactory.

After Dr. Flint, and Dr. E. G. Janeway

The morning bulletin, issued at 9:30 o'clock was even more encouraging. It said: Mr. Vanderbilt passed a better night temperature is a little lower and his goodition is also slightly improved. Grace and Cornelius, Jr., will not be deprived of their Christmas tree on ac-count of their father's illness. A large sized tree was taken to the house yesterday afternoon and it was said that it would be

CLAIM PAID AFTER 105 YEARS. Heirs of Capt. Patton Get Checks From

OGDEN, Utah, Dec. 24 .- Mrs. George A. Graves of this city has received a check from the United States Government for \$250 as her share in the settlement of a claim that has been pending 105 years. The claim was for the capture and destruction by the French, about 1788, of a schooner belonging to Capt. Robert Patton of Gardner, Me. The claim was for \$1,750

Burnett's Cocoaine soothes the irritated scalp, emoves dandruff, gives rich lustre to the Hair.

FIFTY HURT IN EXPLOSION.

Gasolene Wrecks Poulroom of Mayer and Burke's Place in Hot Springs. Ark.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Dec. 24 .- An explosion of gasolene this afternoon in the poolroom operated by Sam Mayer for Leo Mayer and Eddie Burke of New York totally demolished the building, crippled and otherwise injured more than fifty occupants of the room, three of whom cannot live, and seven for whom the attending physicians entertain no hope.

The large clock on the wall marked the hour of the explosion. It stopped at exactly seven minutes past 4. After the explosion the walls began to crumble. When the first shock occurred hundreds ran from the rooms, covered with mortar and plastering and many with cuts and bruises received from falling timbers. A relief force was at once organized and began bringing out the maimed and

The explosion was caused from gasolene

being pumped into blighting apparatus. rom which there was a leakage. The gasolene was on the floor in an adjoining room and some one entering from the poolcoom with a lighted cigar ignited the indammable fluid and caused the explosion Ben Murray, who was handling the gasolene was blown against the wall and injured internally. He is in the hospital under police surveillance. The more seriously injured follow: H. George, New York, leg broken; Henry Lindsey, New York, feet crushed; Bob Potter, New York, both legs crushed: F. Cranfield, Cincinnati. legs bruised, three ribs broken: J. Crawford, Cincinnati, leg and wrist broken; W. S. McInnerney, Chicago, will die; Joe Kenny, Louisville, leg broken; Tom Ogier, city, both legs broken, internal injuries, will die: Billy Helwig, city, both legs broken,

will die. The money in the bank roll was \$55,000. This was scattered in every direction by the force of the explosion, but most of it was picked up in the debris and among the timbers.

MAY MEAN TELLER'S DEFEAT. Republicans Put in Control of Lower House of Republican Legislature.

DENVER, Col., Dec. 24.-By the action of the State Canvassing Board to-day in seating the Republican legislator from San Juan county, the lower house of the Legislaure will be controlled by the Republicans and, it is said, they will then unseau eleven regular and four floating R presentatives whose election, it is charged, was secured by Democratic frauds in Arapahoe

county. The membership of the Legislature is fixed by to-day's action as follows: Senate, Democrats, 24; Republicans, 11; House-

Democrats, 55; Republicans, 45. When the body meets there will be no change in the Senate, but in the House the Democracy membership will be reduced o 16 and the Republicans will have a majority on joint ballot of five votes, so that they can agree upon a candidate Senator

Former Senator Wolcott, Irving Howbert, a Colorado Springs millionaire, and Frank C. Gowdy, a Denver attorney, are the leading candidates. There will be strong opposition to Wolcott, but he will probably win. Howbert's brother, Frank, Collector of Internal Revenue, is managing

Wolcott's campaign. Tuan and Gen. Tung Fu Hsiang. Other | The action of the State Canvassing Board to-day created a sensation. Two of its members, Secretary M.lls and Attorney-General Post, a Populist, voted with Auditor Crouter, Democrat, in favor of the Republican legislator, against Gov. Orman and Treasurer Chipley, Democrats. The Populists were expected to vote as they did.

but the action of Auditor Crouter was a surprise. YERKES TELESCOPE BURNED. Large Reflecting Instrument at Williams

Bay Destroyed by Fire. WILLIAMS BAY, Wis., Dec. 24 .- The large reflecting telescope of the Yerkes Conservatory was destroyed by fire yesterday with many valuable instruments. loss is estimated at \$25,000, on which there is no insurance. The telescope was in a separate structure about a hundred yards south of the observatory building. It consisted of one room in which were the large mirrors, driving clock and other appliances and a structure 120 feet long extending to the southwest, all together form ing a reflecting telescope with a length of

120 feet. The telescope was not quite completed the machinists not having finished setting up the instruments. It was designed by Prof. Hale, and intended for use in connection with the spectroheliograph designed by him and constructed in the observatory workshop. Many valuable results wer expected from its use.

The fire was probably caused by electric wires. Prof. Hale says that steps will be taken at once to replace the outfit. 600 SENT TO QUARANTINE.

Passengers and Crew of the Assyria Held at Halifax Because of Smallpox. HALIPAX, N. S., Dec 2 - One case of smallpox was discovered on board the Hamburg-American steamer Assyria when she arrived here to-day from Hamburg on her way to New York. Her passengers

were ordered to quarantine, to remain here eighteen days. The steamer will be disinfected and alowed to go in about five days. More

and crew number over six hundred and they

than one hundred passengers were bound for United States cities. J. J. HILL SVOWBOUND. His Special Train taught in the Storm

Somewhere in North Dakota. GRAND FORKS, N. D., Dec. 24 .- The special train carrying President J. J. Hill east from the coast is snowbound somehere between Devil's Lake and Larimore but all wires have gone down and nothing more can be ascertained. The storm has been a furious one. It

started in the western part of the State and has worked this way. Not much snow has fallen here, but the wind has been terrific. The temperature is 10 degrees below zero

SLIGHT GAIN FOR MRS. CLARK, JR. Physicians Not Much Encouraged, but Hope for the Best.

BUTTE, Mon., Dec. 24.-The condition of Mrs. W. A. Clark, Jr., shows a slight change for the better to-night, but her physicians and attendants are not much encouraged by the slight improvement, though hoping for a continuation of it.

ROOSEVELT WAITING

PRICE TWO CENTS.

Hopes to Escape Acting as Arbitrator.

HAS THE ALLIES' INVITATIONS.

Not So Much Opposed to The Hague Court as He Thought.

Announces No Decision After a Conference With Secretary Hay-Future Nogotiations to Be More Secret-Rebel Forces in Venezuela Said to Be Marching on the Capital-Castro Goes Out to Meet Them-French View of the Allies' Invitation to Roosevelt.

WASHINGTON Dec 24 - President Rooseelt and Secretary Hay had a conference at Mr. Hay's residence late this afternoon over the question of the President's acceptance or declination of the request of Germany. England and Italy, that he act as arbitrator of the Venezuelan dispose.

The formal invitations of Germany and England, but not of Italy, to the President were received at the State Department this morning, and, while no authoritative statement of their contents is obtainable, it is understood that the acceptance of the joint request is not insisted on so strongly, as the Government had expected from the oral statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the allies to the American diplomatic representatives at their capitals. In fact, the three European Powers, granting that Italy will follow her expressed intention to be guided by Germany and England. are not unfriendly to the President's suggestion that the arbitration should be by The Hague Tribunal and leave a way open for his declination. This gives a new phase to the situation and makes uncertain the acceptance by Mr. Roosevelt of the request to act as arbitrator, which, until this mornng, was regarded as inevitable.

No statement as to the result of the con ference at Secretary Hay's house is obtainable. Mr. Hay went out this evening and left word for newspaper reporters that there would be no news to-night. At the Executive offices nothing could be ascertained excepting that the formal communications from Germany and Eng-land had been laid before the President. has been reached as to the character of the President's answer, which may not be drafted for transmission to London, Berlin and Rome until the day after

Christmas. The reticence displayed to-day by officials having knowledge of the charact of the British and German communications was the result of directions to them not to talk. These orders were born of some chagrin in Administration circles over the manner in which American newspapers have followed every move in the neg tions that have taken place between \text{\text{\$\text{taken}\$}} ington and the capitals of the three European allies. It is said that the President has been embarrassed by the publication of the views he held in favor of transferring the settlement of the Venezuelan im broglio to The Hague Tribunal and in opsition to the sug

he be arbitrator. It was felt by the Administration that if Mr. Roosevelt became arbitrator these statements would create the impression that he had been forced against his will into accepting that responsible office. and that they would also convey the idea to the allied Powers that he was treating

their flattering request ungraciously. In consequence of the directions mentioned all communications in writing between officers of the State Department were transmitted under seal to-day. practice heretofore has been to send them without cover by the hands of the regular messengers. Not only does the interdiotion pertain to news about Venezuelan affairs, but there is a general tightening of the lines concerning all news matters with which the State Department has to

deal. CARACAS GETS PASSENGERS. Brought to Her by the American Gu Outside of La Guayra.

Special Cable Despatches to THE SUR From THE SUN Correspondent at Caracas. CARACAS, Dec. 24 .- A Dutch mail steamer arrived off La Guayra to-day, but the British and Italian warships doing blockading

duty there refused to allow her to the port. The American steamer Caracas, which was allowed to land her passengers and mails and a part of her cargo yesterday. but which was ordered to leave before night, took her departure at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. She took on board passengers and mails, which were conveyed to her by boats from the American gunboat Mariette. President Castro has left the capital and

gone to Valencia, where he will spend the holidays. The state of uncertainty existing as to the result of the proposal for arbitration and the possibility of its refusal have unnerved the members of the Government. The blockade and the consequent verstions to American and other interests are

exasperating the foreigners here. LONDON, Dec. 24 .- A despatch from La Guavra says that the Dutch steamer Prins Willem arrived there to-day. The usual formalities were observed. The agent refused to pay the port dues, and the steamer sailed for Trinidad without communicating with the shore.

FOR MORE DRASTIC MEASURES. German Correspondent Thinks Venez

Blockade Insufficient. Special Cable Despatch to THE SUN. BERLIN, Dec. 24 .- The Lokal Anseige prints a La Guayra despatch stating that

Catifornia -Forida - Mexico. The Raymond & Whiteemb Company of 25 Union Square are now sending out their cars and apecial trains, which run through from New York to California points without change, and offer superior acfornia points without change, and offer superior ac-commodations to those requiring a stitching frac-cious arrangement for reaching california. Other trains will leave New York in January and Peb-ruary, whilen make a complete round of invest through old Mexico, visiting, with their "hotel on wheels," places most interesting that are otherwise inaccessible. They have superior facilities for fours to Florida, Europe, Round the World, Cuba, Porto Rico, Oriental Lands, and sell relireds and steamship tickets to all parts of the world. Otr-culars will be mailed to those interested.—Acc.